



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS  
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Reference No. 6.37

WAGE RATES INDEXES : MARCH 1975 (PRELIMINARY)

MAIN FEATURES

- In March the weighted average minimum weekly wage rate for adult males increased by \$1.01 and for adult females by \$1.95.
- The major increase was due to the new National Building Trades Construction Award which increased the figure for building and construction by \$5.64 and that for all industries by 73 cents. (The award now incorporates special and industry allowances which in some cases were excluded from the indexes for February 1975 and previous months. See NOTE on page 2.)
- Other major increases reflected in the March figures include —
  - Increases granted to males and females in clothing trades, dry cleaning and textile industry.
  - Increases prescribed in the new vehicle building industry awards (operative in May and September 1974) for the major vehicle assemblers.
  - Increases granted in February 1975 to male and female clerks in New South Wales.

months. More information on these statistics will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. Because the indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries, those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for July 1973 and subsequent months are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statement contains figures of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females for March 1975 and corresponding figures for some earlier

TABLE 1. - WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES  
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of —	Adult males (b)				Adult females (c)			
	Weekly wage rates		Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates		Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates	Annual change(d)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100)	Wage rates	Annual change(d)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100)
1974 —								
March	79.60	15.6	281.9	198.70	280.9	26.3	336.3	168.75
April	85.30	23.5	302.0	213.35	301.6	30.3	351.6	176.44
May	93.23	27.2	330.1	232.43	328.5	32.1	387.4	194.42
June	95.03	27.6	336.5	237.07	335.1	36.9	404.7	203.08
July	96.96	29.5	343.3	241.99	342.0	40.2	419.2	210.35
August	97.61	29.0	345.6	243.63	344.4	43.8	433.0	217.27
September	101.65	33.8	359.9	254.02	359.0	45.3	442.9	222.25
October	103.37	35.1	366.0	258.42	365.3	44.7	450.3	225.98
November	104.18	35.2	368.9	260.48	368.2	42.4	452.6	227.12
December	104.69	34.8	370.7	261.80	370.0	39.9	457.9	229.81
1975 —								
January	104.92	33.8	371.5	262.37	370.8	39.4	464.3	232.98
February	105.15	33.6	372.3	262.97	371.7	39.8	468.7	235.19
March	106.16	33.4	375.9	265.57	375.4	42.3	478.4	240.10

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes above. (b) Excludes rural industry. Hourly rates also exclude shipping and stevedoring. The former is not included in the wage rates index and for the latter definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction. (d) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (e) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100.

TABLE 2. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MARCH 1975 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Rates of wage (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Mining and quarrying (d)	<b>130.52</b>	103.64	118.58	103.49	100.01	95.70	119.70	20.1	423.8
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	98.02	103.76	110.22	101.70	96.78	101.46	101.19	36.8	358.3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	96.44	96.13	96.90	93.15	96.78	92.82	96.09	29.6	340.2
Food, drink and tobacco	102.49	101.83	101.68	98.99	98.64	101.44	101.66	28.9	360.0
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	103.58	98.88	103.81	99.88	98.64	99.29	101.54	35.6	359.5
Paper, printing, etc.	106.47	111.96	114.15	106.51	107.79	107.12	109.06	29.8	386.2
Other manufacturing	100.35	103.21	105.85	103.51	97.64	97.33	101.78	31.6	360.4
<i>All manufacturing groups</i>	<i>99.73</i>	<i>102.62</i>	<i>106.17</i>	<i>101.53</i>	<i>98.07</i>	<i>100.85</i>	<i>101.45</i>	<i>33.8</i>	<i>359.2</i>
Building and construction	112.04	120.83	110.54	116.43	106.48	108.65	113.70	41.2	402.6
Railway services	99.94	95.85	114.22	100.27	91.12	101.49	101.88	38.3	360.7
Road and air transport	112.75	105.14	103.66	104.57	103.51	108.00	108.04	36.2	382.6
Shipping and stevedoring (e)	118.87	119.02	113.42	111.98	120.25	117.26	117.17	24.6	414.9
Communication	132.13	132.60	131.67	130.96	132.34	128.49	131.99	28.7	467.4
Wholesale and retail trade	106.67	106.70	106.66	103.88	100.77	109.45	105.98	30.1	375.3
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	107.30	104.51	113.14	99.52	100.58	110.62	106.38	27.7	376.7
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	102.69	100.15	101.94	97.63	94.95	95.43	100.61	37.4	356.2
<i>All industry groups (f)</i>	<i>105.92</i>	<i>106.40</i>	<i>109.58</i>	<i>105.17</i>	<i>101.50</i>	<i>105.39</i>	<i>106.16</i>	<i>33.4</i>	<i>375.9</i>

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) For mining, rates of wage used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (e) Includes rates of wage (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers. (f) Excludes rural industry.

NOTE. The weekly rates used in the index for occupations specified in the National Building Trades Construction Award include the weekly base rate of pay, the special allowance and the industry allowance.

TABLE 3. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT FEMALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MARCH 1975 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Rates of wage (\$)							Annual change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Manufacturing —									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	96.80	97.77	96.24	92.19	86.39	98.65	96.41	45.2	484.3
Textiles, clothing and footwear	89.27	86.89	87.48	86.64	88.54	83.86	87.82	48.6	441.1
Food, drink and tobacco	97.48	95.09	93.47	90.40	78.11	93.08	94.53	45.2	474.9
Other manufacturing	94.63	94.42	96.25	88.99	88.59	91.32	94.09	42.5	472.6
<i>All manufacturing groups</i>	<i>93.09</i>	<i>90.80</i>	<i>91.67</i>	<i>89.63</i>	<i>85.94</i>	<i>89.41</i>	<i>91.59</i>	<i>46.1</i>	<i>460.1</i>
Transport and communication	99.00	101.80	106.58	103.16	99.00	109.84	101.59	35.9	510.3
Wholesale and retail trade	102.27	101.76	101.53	96.82	96.25	100.96	101.01	42.2	507.4
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	91.55	99.04	102.94	90.42	93.43	96.37	95.54	29.6	479.9
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	96.72	91.74	92.93	90.17	90.07	89.37	93.88	43.8	471.6
<i>All industry groups (d)</i>	<i>95.97</i>	<i>94.47</i>	<i>97.80</i>	<i>93.05</i>	<i>92.48</i>	<i>94.88</i>	<i>95.25</i>	<i>42.3</i>	<i>478.4</i>

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. These percentages may fluctuate from month to month owing to the timing of significant award changes. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

TABLE 4. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a)(\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (b)									
1974 -									
March	80.31	78.51	83.64	76.27	77.18	77.90	78.62	80.67	79.60
April	86.27	85.69	85.26	83.03	81.84	83.97	87.19	83.24	85.30
May	93.91	92.70	95.15	91.79	89.49	93.53	94.84	91.48	93.23
June	95.22	95.58	96.87	93.46	90.43	94.61	96.59	93.35	95.03
July	96.79	98.11	99.07	94.80	92.34	96.07	97.88	95.96	96.96
August	97.13	98.78	100.50	95.87	92.66	96.51	98.45	96.70	97.61
September	101.16	102.43	105.82	100.00	95.90	100.00	103.87	99.24	101.65
October	102.90	104.00	107.83	101.40	98.50	100.93	104.55	102.09	103.37
November	103.81	104.69	108.08	102.25	99.65	102.96	105.14	103.14	104.18
December	104.11	105.11	108.62	103.04	101.00	104.17	105.44	103.88	104.69
1975 -									
January	104.23	105.37	108.93	103.33	101.37	104.47	105.72	104.05	104.92
February	104.61	105.43	109.36	103.37	101.43	104.53	105.74	104.51	105.15
March	105.92	106.40	109.58	105.17	101.50	105.39	107.84	104.17	106.16
ADULT FEMALES (c)									
1974 -									
March	68.80	65.26	67.61	64.95	65.56	63.39	63.64	69.81	66.95
April	71.75	69.00	69.87	67.74	67.27	65.77	69.14	70.74	70.00
May	81.13	74.66	74.09	73.02	73.69	74.40	75.42	78.60	77.13
June	82.56	80.84	76.96	78.00	75.41	76.30	78.37	82.47	80.56
July	86.34	82.91	80.25	79.43	77.88	78.41	79.04	87.28	83.45
August	88.53	85.79	85.91	82.04	79.30	79.55	83.44	88.58	86.19
September	89.94	87.52	89.23	84.08	83.64	83.62	86.09	89.97	88.17
October	91.44	89.27	89.40	85.70	86.04	84.25	86.31	92.54	89.65
November	91.80	89.60	89.70	86.47	87.25	86.45	86.94	92.84	90.10
December	92.54	89.82	91.81	91.09	87.60	91.35	87.59	94.27	91.17
1975 -									
January	92.76	91.80	94.19	91.72	90.85	93.06	87.96	96.30	92.43
February	94.15	91.89	96.21	91.95	91.47	93.23	88.01	97.90	93.30
March	95.97	94.47	97.80	93.05	92.48	94.88	91.91	98.15	95.25

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Excludes rural industry. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2343 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

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